

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /079 W  
-----080017 181204Z /43

R 180916Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5122  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2170

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV BQG  
SUBJ: S-BAHN

REF: BONN 13148

1. REFTTEL SUGGESTS THAT FRG HAS CONFIRMED POSITION  
ORIGINALLY ADOPTED BY GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ ABOUT S-BAHN DEFICIT  
AND GDR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN FRG OR SENAT AID IN MEETING  
IT. WE HAVE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE BUT WILL CHECK DIS-  
CREETLY THAT MAYOR STOBBE AGREES WITH SCHUETZ' POSITION.  
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME URBAN TRANSPORT EXPERTS IN SENAT  
WHO BELIEVE THAT S-BAHN REMAINS A USEFUL ELEMENT IN  
WEST BERLIN'S URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, PREVAILING  
EXPERT OPINION IN SENAT IS THAT S-BAHN REJUVENATION WOULD  
NOT BE COST EFFECTIVE.

2. TRAFFIC EXPERTS FAVOR ADDING SELECTIVE ADDITIONAL BUS  
LINES SHOULD S-BAHN SERVICE BE CUT FURTHER OR ELIMINATED.  
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REJUVENATION OF S-BAHN WOULD IN BVG (BERLIN TRANSIT CO)  
VIEW BE AT EXPENSE OF PASSENGERS CARRIED BY WEST BERLIN  
U-BAHN AND BUSSES. THERE IS ALSO A POLITICAL FACTOR IN  
FACT BVG BUSSES EMPLOY MANY THOUSANDS OF BERLINERS. SENAT  
APPEARS CONVINCED FRG WILL, HOWEVER, NOT PAY FOR S-BAHN  
REJUVENATION.

3. THERE ARE SERIOUS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED SHOULD FRG/SENAT REFUSE TO DISCUSS S-BAHN AND PERMIT SUSPENSION OF ITS OPERATIONS. WEST BERLIN COULD BE LEFT WITH CONSIDERABLE COLLECTION OF S-BAHN STATIONS, MANY OF WHICH HOUSE CONCESSIONAIRES, AND DETERIORATING TRACKAGE. AS TIME AND WEATHER TOOK ITS TOLL, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SENAT WOULD HAVE TO FACE UP TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH PURELY S-BAHN INSTALLATIONS, BRIDGES AND TRACK. ALLIES HAVE OF COURSE LEGAL RIGHT TO TAKE OVER SYSTEM AND HAND IT OVER TO SENAT TRUSTEESHIP ON MODEL OF OTHER NON-OPERATING REICHSBAHN PROPERTY, BUT WOULD FACE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN LIGHT OF SOVIET/GDR CLAIM THAT THEY ARE OWNERS OF THESE PROPERTIES.

4. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT REICHSBAHN HAS RECENTLY REPAIRED AT ITS EXPENSE "JUGENSTIL" S-BAHN STATION ON MEXIKOPLATZ AND HAD MADE MINOR IMPROVEMENTS AT SOME COST ON CERTAIN OTHER STATIONS. THIS SUGGESTS THAT EVEN IF S-BAHN SERVICE WERE TO CEASE, REICHSBAHN WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN ITS CONTROL OVER THESE PROPERTIES. AGAIN, WEST BERLIN CONCESSIONAIRES IN THOSE STATIONS MIGHT OBJECT TO PAYING RENTAL FEES TO A REICHSBAHN WHOSE LEGAL CLAIM TO OPERATING THE STATIONS HAD ERODED WHEN THEY CEASED TO OPERATE THE TRAINS. IN SOME CASES CAUTIOUS CONCESSIONAIRES NOW PAY RENT TO WESTERN ADMINISTRATION FOR FORMER REICHSBAHN PROPERTIES AND TO REICHSBAHN.

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5. FRG/SENAT APPEAR CONVINCED THAT IN END THEY CAN TURN TO ALLIES FOR REMEDIAL ACTION. WE HAVE THEREFORE CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO PLUMB SENAT THINKING ON THESE ISSUES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. SENAT HAS TOLD US IT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS WE PUT TO IT IN JANUARY BUT NOT IN WRITING. THIS MAY BE TO GET AROUND POSSIBLE FRG ADVICE NOT TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ALLIES. FRG REPORTEDLY FLABBERGASTED AT PRICE TAG ON S-BAHN REJUVENATION AND WANTS TO PRECLUDE AN "ACTIVIST" POLICY ON ISSUE SPARKED BY SENAT ON ALLIES. WE WILL BE MEETING SOON WITH SENAT TO RECEIVE THEIR ANSWERS. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URBAN TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USBERL02170  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770298-0160  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 BONN 13148  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1555373  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** S-BAHN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ELTN, BQG  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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